



## Groundwater Development

Lead Department: Water

Contact: Bob McCullough 619-533-4222

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### **Background:**

The San Diego Water Department services 1.2 million customers, including the largest concentration of military bases in the United States. It is one of the ten largest water suppliers in the nation – providing 206 MGD per day. By the year 2030, the City's population and economic growth is projected to increase water demands by about 55 million gallons a day (MGD) or 25 percent over 2002 levels.

The City presently imports approximately 90% of its water supply from northern California and the Colorado River. Local reservoirs owned and operated by the City supply about 10 to 15 percent of need. The City's Long-Range Water Resources Plan adopted by the San Diego City Council on December 9, 2002, calls for a flexible strategy for the next 30 years, implemented in three 10-year phases. The principal strategies are:

- Conservation
- Recycled water
- Groundwater storage and treatment
- Water transfers
- Desalination

The plan more specifically calls for 10,000 acre-feet per year of desalinated brackish groundwater and 20,000 acre-feet of groundwater storage by the year 2010. Groundwater resources in the San Diego area are untapped and underutilized – with research required to determine:

- Defines and quantifies resources and identifies steps for analysis and potential development.
- The appropriate techniques and methodologies for recharging groundwater basins with recycled water for storage and recovery, for assuring protection of water quality, and for assuring effective public outreach and education.
- Appropriate sampling programs to establish baselines and monitor the impacts of wildfires on groundwater and surface water supplies, on surface and shallow groundwater systems to determine the potential for storage and recovery, and on deep aquifer systems.

### **State Strategies**

- Identify opportunities for appointment of individuals knowledgeable of San Diego water issues to the State Water Resources Control Board
- Seek funding from Proposition 50 grants administered by the State Water Resources Control Board

### **Federal Strategies**

- Support S1413 (Boxer), which provides a groundwater supply study relating to the San Diego Formation Assessment, at a total study cost of \$4,000,000
- Seek four year, \$500,000 per year grant from U.S. Geological Survey groundwater programs to identify potable and other water supply opportunities for the City of San Diego through scientific effort that strategically defines resources and proper steps for analysis and potential development. Emphasis should be on sampling to establish baselines and monitor the impacts of the wildfires on groundwater and surface water supplies, on surface and shallow groundwater systems to determine the potential for storage and recovery, and on deep groundwater systems such as the San Diego Formation
- Seek \$1.0 million for continuation of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation San Diego River Restoration Project which includes habitat restoration with potential water needs
- Seek additional \$1.0 million for FY2006 which would include potential groundwater analyses.
- Seek \$3.5 million for the City of San Diego for pilot programs to advance the appropriate techniques and methodologies for recharging groundwater basins with recycled water for storage and recovery during peak demand periods.

### **Supporters and Possible Supporters:**

WaterReuse Association  
AWWA  
Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA)  
MWD and CWA  
Sweetwater Authority  
San Diego River Park Foundation